a client computer to playback multimedia content and annotations corresponding to different temporal portions of the multimedia content; and

an annotation server, coupled to the client computer, to,

maintain an annotation database having a plurality of annotations corresponding to the multimedia content,

provide the plurality of annotations to the client computer for playback,

send electronic mail messages including annotations to recipients identified by the client computer,

generate new annotations based on [received] electronic mail messages received both in response to the sent electronic mail messages and not in response to the sent electronic mail messages, and

add the new annotations to the annotation database.

5.   (Amended)   A system as recited in claim 4, wherein the client computer is further to transmit, to the media server, an identifier of a temporal segment of the multimedia content that is after the beginning of the multimedia content, and wherein the media server is to stream to the client computer the multimedia content beginning with the identified temporal segment.

6.   (Amended) A method comprising:

presenting, to a user, a user interface allowing the user to create a new annotation corresponding to media content; [and]

including, as part of the user interface, a field via which the user can identify a recipient that is to receive an electronic mail notification of the new annotation; and

communicating, as an electronic mail message that is not in reply to another electronic mail message, the new annotation to an annotation server.

8.   (Amended)   A method as recited in claim 6, further comprising [forwarding the new annotation to an annotation server to be added to] including, in the electronic mail message, an indication of an annotation set corresponding to the media content and to the new annotation.

9.   (Amended) A method as recited in claim 6, further comprising:

allowing the user to identify, via the field of the user interface, a plurality of recipients to receive the electronic mail notification; and

[wherein the forwarding comprises] forwarding, to each of the plurality of recipients, the electronic mail notification of the new annotation.

10.   (Amended) A method as recited in claim 6, further comprising:

allowing the user to input, via the field of the user interface, a group identifier;

identifying an electronic mail address for each of a plurality of recipients corresponding to the group identifier; and

[wherein the forwarding comprises] forwarding, to each of the plurality of recipients, the electronic mail notification of the new annotation.

13. (Amended) A method comprising:

receiving data for a new annotation corresponding to a temporal range of media content;

generating an electronic mail message including, [both]

the content of the new annotation, [and]

an identifier of the media content, and

an installation option that identifies an installation program that can be used to install one or more modules allowing the content and corresponding media content to be rendered; and

forwarding the electronic mail message to a recipient identified by the data.

17. (Amended) A method comprising:

receiving an electronic mail notification of a new annotation corresponding to media content, the new annotation corresponding to one of [the media content having] a plurality of temporal segments after the beginning of the media content;

presenting the electronic mail notification to a user;

receiving a user input to access the media content; and

accessing, upon receiving the user input, a media server to stream, for rendering to the user, the media content beginning with the one of the plurality of segments that corresponds to the new annotation [to the user].

19. (Amended) A method as recited in claim 17, wherein the presenting comprises:

displaying annotation content for the new annotation to the user; and

1 displaying [at least one] a plurality of identifiers to the user, the [at least

2 one] plurality of identifiers including [one or more of]:

3 a content identifier that identifies the media content;

4 a range identifier that identifies a temporal range of the segment

5 corresponding to the new annotation;

6 an annotation identifier that identifies the new annotation; and

7 an annotation set identifier that identifies one or more of a plurality

8 of annotation sets, corresponding to categories for annotations, that the new

9 annotation is part of.

10

23. (Amended) One or more computer-readable media having stored

thereon a computer program that, when executed by one or more processors,

13 causes the one or more processors to perform functions including:

14 receiving an electronic mail notification of a new annotation corresponding

15 to media content, wherein the electronic mail notification includes a user-

16 selectable identifier of the media content;

17 displaying the electronic mail notification;

18 receiving a user selection of the identifier; and

19 accessing, upon receiving the user selection, a media server indicated by the

20 identifier to begin, at a point in the media content after the beginning of the media

21 content and corresponding to the new annotation, streaming the media content for

22 presentation to the user.

23

24 25. (Amended) A system comprising:

25

an interface module to receive data regarding a new annotation corresponding to media content;

a module to generate an electronic mail message regarding the new annotation, the electronic mail message including,

the new annotation content, [and]

an identifier of the media content to which the new annotation corresponds, and

an identifier of a temporal range of the media content that the new annotation content is associated with, which corresponds to a location of the media content that is after the beginning of the media content and at which rendering of the media content should begin in response to selection of the identifier of the media content in the electronic mail message.

28. (Amended) A system as recited in claim 25, wherein the electronic mail message further includes an identifier of one or more of a plurality of annotation sets, corresponding to categories for annotations, that the new annotation is associated with.

31. (Amended) A method comprising:

receiving an electronic mail notification of an annotation corresponding to media content; [and]

replying to the electronic mail notification to generate a new annotation corresponding to the media content;

including, in the reply, an identifier of one or more annotation sets that the new annotation is associated with; and

displaying a default recipient, corresponding to the identified one or more annotation sets, that is to receive an electronic mail notification of the new annotation.

33. (Amended) A method comprising:

receiving an electronic mail thread including a plurality of electronic mail messages;

creating [an] a plurality of annotations from [at least one of] the plurality of electronic mail messages in the electronic mail thread; and

adding the plurality of annotations to an annotation database.

37. (Amended) One or more computer-readable media having stored thereon a computer program that, when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to perform functions including:

receiving an electronic mail message that is not in reply to a previous electronic mail message; and

extracting both annotation content and annotation identification information from the electronic mail message.

39. (Amended) One or more computer-readable media as recited in claim 37, wherein the extracting annotation identification information comprises extracting from the email message:

an identifier of media content to which the annotation content corresponds and of a temporal segment, corresponding to the annotation content, of the media content; and

an identifier of an annotation set that a new annotation including the extracted annotation content is to be part of, wherein the annotation set is one of one or more annotation sets corresponding to categories for annotations.